

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2761

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG TECH YO UNGA IAEA
SUBJ: KARDELJ REJECTS NUCLEAR MONOPOLY: SUGGESTS NEGOTIATIONS
AT SPECIAL UNGA

REF: BELGRADE 2400 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: TITO'S CLOSEST ADVISOR, EDVARD KARDELJ, HAS PUBLICLY REJECTED "UNILATERALLY IMPOSED CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD LIMIT OUR SOCIETY IN THE FREE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY." IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE SLOVENIAN NEWSPAPER "DELO" AND BELGRADE'S "BORBA", KARDELJ CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS IF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF SAFEGUARDS AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. HE SUGGESTED THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) AS A FORUM FOR RESOLVING NUCLEAR QUESTIONS. KRSKO IMPASSE WAS NOT MENTIONED BUT VERY LIKELY WAS ON KARDELJ'S MIND. END SUMMARY.

2. KARDELJ SAID THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESENT MONOPOLY IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, WHICH HAS BEEN INSTITU-
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TIONALIZED IN THE "LONDON CLUB", IS BEING SOUGHT AS THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. ONE REASON IS "PROFIT", WHICH KARDELJ CHARACTERIZED AS "ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE FACTORS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR MAINTAINING THE PRESENT MONOPOLY." ACCEPTANCE OF THIS MONOPOLY WOULD MEAN "IMPOSITION OF A NEW FORM OF ECONOMIC COLONIALISM ON COUNTRIES WHICH TODAY DO NOT POSSESS NUCLEAR

TECHNOLOGY." KARDELJ DESCRIBED NUCLEAR POWER AS ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LINKED THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH THE BROADER STRUGGLE FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. KARDELJ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROLIFERATION IS A PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT SOME "ARE DRAMATIZING" IT, INSISTING THAT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR REACTORS WILL PRODUCE PLUTONIUM WHICH MIGHT BE USED FOR WEAPONS. "A MUCH GREATER PROBLEM", ACCORDING TO KARDELJ, ARE "ALREADY EXISTING RATHER THAN HYPOTHETICAL ATOMIC BOMBS." KARDELJ ARGUED THAT THE PRESENT NUCLEAR POWERS HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO DISARM. IF THEY DO NOT IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SEEK TO MAKE THEIR OWN WEAPONS.

4. "YUGOSLAVIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL BE FOR THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ALSO FOR THE GRADUAL DESTRUCTION OF THOSE WHICH EXIST", KARDELJ WROTE. HE SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS READY TO OBSERVE ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND TO ACCEPT "ANY INTERNATIONAL CONTROL WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, WITH THE CONDITION THAT ALL COUNTRIES EQUALLY OBSERVE THEIR OBLIGATIONS".

5. KARDELJ POSED TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR SOLVING NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBLEMS: EITHER THE NUCLEAR POWERS CHANGE THEIR POSITION AND PERMIT FREE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES "UNDER EFFECTIVE

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INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS WHICH PREVENT THE USE OF NUCLEAR RAW MATERIALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS" OR THE COUNTRIES WHICH LACK NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WILL DEVELOP IT THEMSELVES. HE PROPOSED THE SSOD AS A FORUM FOR THE "DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTION" OF THESE QUESTIONS, WHICH ARE NOT TECHNOLOGICAL, BUT POLITICAL.

6. COMMENT: KARDELJ NOW SUPERSEDES BAKARIC (REFTEL) AS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE YUGOSLAV LEADER TO HAVE SPOKEN PUBLICLY AND FORCEFULLY ABOUT NUCLEAR ISSUES RAISED BY OUR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY AND THE KRSKO REACTOR. THE USE OF TERMS LIKE "MONOPOLY", "PROFIT", AND "COLONIALISM" AND CHARGES THAT NUCLEAR POWERS HAVE NOT FULFILLED THEIR OBLIGATIONS, MAKE THIS THE MOST UNCOMPROMISING, AS WELL AS COMPREHENSIVE, STATEMENT OF YUGOSLAV POSITION THUS FAR. WE NOTE AS WELL THAT KARDELJ, INSTEAD OF STRESSING THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE NO INTENTION OF BUILDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS DID BAKARIC, MAINTAINS STANDARD LINE THAT ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS (LIKE NPT) DEPENDS ON THE ADHERENCE OF

OTHERS, AND HE MAKES NO SECRET OF HIS DISSATISFACTION
WITH THE PACE OF DISARMAMENT. YORK

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Message Attributes

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